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Heraclitus Ridens;

AT

A DIALOGUE between *JEST* and *EARNEST* Concerning the *TIMES.*

From Tuesday December the 21*th.* to Saturday 25*th.* and from Saturday to Tuesday the 28*th.* 1703.

Earn. AND *Nob* knew of this Plot, you ſay, ſeveral Months before it broke out! A very fine Gentleman, truly, not to make a Diſcovery till it was done to our Hands.

Jeſt. *Yes, that he did, if you'll believe him in his 2 laſt, but he is little us'd to be taken Notice of, there was no manner of Credit given, it ſeems, to what he ſaid.*

Earn. Ought he not therefore to be taken up as a Perſon Concern'd in it? What think you of having him before the Committee of *Northumberland Houſe?* He's a meer Dog at giving of Evidences, and it is Ten to One, but he pretends to clear up the whole Matter, and make it as plain as he did Queen, Lords, and Commons, for his Three Eſtates.

Jeſt. *Ha, ha, ha; How ſimply the Fellow would look, if his great Penetration into the Myſteries of State ſhould bring him into that Delemma. He deſerves it in my Conſcience, for Elbowing himſelf into Knowledge at this Rate. But have a care of your Candle, he is not the Man you take him for, and he that Plays at Hide and Seek with one Committee, will ſcarce give his Appearance before another. He has a ſtrange Value for* Indolence, *and has a natural Antipathy to Hemp and Whipping-Poſts, both by Father and Mothers Side.*

Earn. Now I think on it, he is Paſſive Obedience and Non-Reſiſtance Man. But obſerve him a little farther, and you'll find how apprehenſive he is, leſt the Presbyterians in *Scotland* ſhould be found at the Bottom of this Plot, as well knowing that their Principles teach 'em the Doctrines of Rebellion and taking up Arms againſt the Supreme Magiſtrate. Wherefore he anticipates ſuch a Diſcovery, by ſetting Mr. *F---* at Work to make it.

Jeſt. *A Man with half an Eye may ſee what he would be at. Your Jacobites and Non-juring Clergy, poor unfortunate Gentlemen, have not Money enough to carry Deſigns againſt a Government ſo fixed and ſettled as this is, and I would lay the* Tower of London *(if it were mine) to a* Turnip, *that* Jack Presbyter *is the Knave that is turn'd up at laſt.*

Earn. I cannot perceive what they ſhould be Uneaſy for, ſince their Religion is that which is made National now in *Scotland*, and they have had ſuch large Conceſſions from the Throne, ſuch Grants and Privileges, as never were enjoy'd but by few of their Predeceſſors.

Jeſt. *Thoſe very Grants and Priviledges, is what, if I miſtake not, gives a Being to their Miſchevous Deſigns, and the Act of Parliament for Trading to both the* Indias, *being render'd Succeſsleſs by the Intervention of the Parliaments of* England, *is doubtleſs the Thing they are aggrieved at, when all we did was to make 'em honeſt; but it was the ſame labour as* Waſhing the Æthiop, *we fail'd of our Deſign, and* Scot *would be* Scot *to the End of the Chapter. Their Inſtructions were to* get Money honeſtly if they could, if not they were to be ſure to get it; *which was by Invading the Territories of* Spain, *one of our Chiefeſt Allies at that Time, but ended in laying* their Honour in the Duſt, *not carrying it off from* Darien.

Earn. I always took thoſe that Engag'd in the *Darien* Project for Epiſcopal Men, and that Duke *Hamilton* was the Head of 'em, ſo that what you tell me is News indeed.

Jeſt. *Give me leave to tell you, there lies ſomething at the Bottom of this Adventure, that points at the Occaſions of the War all* Europe *is now almoſt engag'd in. Suppoſe it ſhould have fruſtrated the* Partition Treaty, *and incens'd the* Spaniards *to ſuch a Degree, to vacate the late King of* Spain's *Will in Favour of the Arch* Duke *of* Auſtria, *are not we mightily beholden to ſomebody that gave Being to this* Indian *and* African *Company for ſo doing?*

Earn. Suppoſei t! It's more than a Mile beyond a Suppoſition, it has actually done it. Not but the Partition Treaty was unjuſt in it ſelf, tho' the Contrivers of it are unpuniſhed for its Concluſion; but as *Nob* has it, *There was a Wheel within a Wheel,* a certain Affair under the *Scotch* Parliament's Enquiry, that made the Grant of ſuch an Eſtabliſhment at that Time of Day unavoidable.

Jeſt. *Oh! I Smell a Rat--- Not a word more of* Scotland, *I beſeech you, for fear* Nob *ſhould turn Prophet indeed, and* Predict *us into a* Scotch Cataſtrophe. *Not that we might not have a Fling at the* Glencoe *Buſineſs, as well as his* Publiſher, *who has laid open that Affair to the Eyes of the World, out of his great Reſpect* to Her Majeſty's Predeceſſor, the mighty William of immortal Memory; *but we are willing to let the Aſhes of the Deceas'd lie in ſilence, and leave the Miſcarriages of Men Superlatively above us, to the Divine Tribunal. But to leave the Buſineſs of the* Plot, *whether* Jacobite *or* Williamite, *to thoſe whoſe* Province *it is to Examine into it; Have not our Repreſentatives made a Noble Addreſs to Her Majeſty in Defence of Her juſt Authority, and the Maintenance of every individual* Prerogative *that is veſted in the Crown.*

Earn. Never was any thing better Pen'd, and more ſuitable to the Purpoſe. Never did Prince receive more lively Tokens of an Implicit Obedience from his People, or a People more Tender Expreſſions from a Prince, than has been Reciprocal between Her Majeſty and Her moſt Faithful Houſe of Commons; and it is not to be doubted whether Remoras have been laid in the way to prevent the Church Eſtabliſh'd, from being Secured againſt all poſſibility of returning into its preſent Declenſion, but they will ſtill continue making it their Endeavour to ſettle it upon ſuch a laſting Foundation, that the Gates of Hell ſhall not, *upon any Occaſion whatſoever,* prevail againſt it, But our *Fathers* ſhall pay that Obedience to their *Mother,* as they expect we ſhould pay to *them.*

Jeſt. *You talk Myſtically; Clear up your meaning to me, or I muſt ſend for a* Dutch *Commentator to Illuſtrate it to me. But now I think of it, thoſe* Bullet-Heads, *(which is a damn'd Name for 'em too, ſince they have ſuch an Averſion to Powder and Ball) perplex a Page rather than explain it, and make Myſteries by way of* Expreſſion, *when they almoſt acknowledge no ſuch things by way of* Faith. *Wherefore I ſhall obſerve to you, That while this Honourable Houſe is ſo Solicitous for keeping all Her Majeſty's Prerogatives Intire, and Undiminiſhed, even to Call in Queſtion the Proceedings of very Great Men on that Head, methinks the Report that goes about of* Nob's *being Ordered to be Diſcharged from any farther Enquiry in relation to the* Obſervator, *that has fallen under their Cenſure ſhould not be true, ſince he has almoſt called in Queſtion every Branch of the Royal Prerogative, and is for Clipping Her Majeſties Authority ſo far as to make Her Reſponſible to thoſe that are in Authority under Her.*

Earn. I have often Cautioned you againſt interfering with Parliamentary proceedings; Thoſe Gentlemen neither want Adviſers, nor People to put them in mind of Affairs that are moſt Momentous to be gone upon, and though Matters of leſſer Concern may be laid aſide for a while, that Things of Weight and Conſequence may come in their Rome, yet it cannot be ſaid they are totally forgotten. I am apt to believe this is the Caſe of our Antagonſt, and we ſhall hear farther of him, unleſs he has made ſome *Real* Diſcovery or other to deſerve Forgiveneſs by, which in my Opinion is next to an Impoſſibility.

Jeſt. *Nay, then my* Queries *may be of Uſe yet, for I ſhould have been confoundedly Mortified to have Summon'd*

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up my whole Stock of Intellects to no Purpose. You must know I am turned Voluntier in Interrogatories, and have been putting the Question to my self, How it was possible this Fell w should come off, should the Committee appointed to Examin him, think it worth their while to continne him under their Cognizance.

Earn. Prithee what Business is this of yours, that you must intermeddle with it? However, since you may take it amiss that I do not give you an Opportunity to shew your Wit in, now is your time to lay hold of, and I'll give you my Attention while you repeat 'em.

Jest. Very civilly done, in good Faith is it, to hear what an old Acquaintance has to say to you. I could almost spare you the trouble of being caught by the Ears at all, but whatever opinion you may have of my Queries, this is to satisfy you, That I have no more Modesty than the rest of the Brethren of the Quill, and that out they shall come, whatever their Fate is.

Query 1. Whether he that contriv'd *Fuller*'s Depositions, should not partake of *Fuller*'s Punishment; And whether endeavouring to Fob a false Mother upon a Suppositious Prince, be not an Inducement to make him believ'd for a True One, and therefore Treasonable?

Qu. 2. Whether the readiest way for a pretended Liberty and Property Monger *to lose his Skin*, be not to surrender himself at the next *Whipping-Post*; And whether it be not a Breach of the Privileges of the Honourable House of Commons, to Calumniate any one Member belonging to it, tho' *Nob* lays Claim to the same *Liberty of Speech without Doors as they have within?*

Qu. 3. Whether it be not a High Crime and Misdemeanour to insinuate to the World, That the best of *Protestant* Queens is too favourable to the *Papists*; And whether it does not tend to a Disunion between Her Majesty and Her Subjects to affirm in Print, That in all Reigns Proclamations have been Issued out against them but in that of Her Royal Father King *James* the 2d, and Her own?

Q. 4. Whether Justifying the Murther of King *Charles* I. who has been Enacted a Martyr by King and Parliament does not fall under the same Predicament; and whether if one was lately found Guilty, and Fin'd for it, another ought to escape without publick Censure?

Q. 5. *Whether by Reflecting upon the Tinner's Address to Her Majesty, the Person that finds Fault with it, does not aim at the Lord Granville, who deliver'd it as Lord Warden of the Stannaries? And whether it be not a Sort of a Reproach to Her Majesty in her Choice of Officers, for him to insinuate to the world that his Lordship is a Friend to the Young Gentleman on the other side of the water, because his Name was not inserted in the said Address?*

Q. 6. *Whether they that have Suffered for the Royal Martyr and his Two Sons, are more likely to be Enemies to the present Government, than those who were in Open Rebellion against them? And whether Men that have lost All for Conscience sake, are not more Valuable, than those who would down with Oaths hundreds upon hundreds, and play at Bo-peep with the Religion they have been bred-up in, for the sake of a Gainful employ?*

Q. 7. *Whether when he presents my Lord Nottingham with his second Vol. of Observators, as he did with his First, my Lord will not be highly Indebted to him for Affronting of him in several of 'em? And whether he does not point exactly at his Lordship, who was then Secretary of State, in reference to the Printing the Scotch Episcopal Clergy's Address in the Gazette, since nothing can be Inserted in that Paper without the Secretary's Approbation and Allowance?*

Qu. 8. Whether it be not Unchristian, Barbarous and Malicious, to have the poor *Scotch* Clergy deny'd the Benefit of Petitioning for Relief, when under the greatest Pressures; or whether it be more Criminal to ask for an Alms of Mercy, and to mitigate the Severities of the Law, than to make one's Request for Relief from the Royal Privy-purse?

Earn. I wish your Queries may have their desired Effect, I am satisfy'd the Design of 'em is Just and Equitable. As for my part, I spent an Hour Yesterday in writing his *Epitaph*, so that if his Friends are but ready for his Burial, here it is at theirs and your Service.

Epitaphium Desideratissimi Perduellionibus a Secretis Poetastri Johannis Nob, *qui e Vivis excessit, affectus insenabili Scribendi Cacoethe, & emortuus est, quia complevisset omnium Malorum spatium, & non illum penes erata inter Nefarios ulterius, quod Rebellium fuit, Machinari.*

Siste Viator,
Et si præ Letitia potes, Intuere
Quis hic situs est.
Fastidiosum quæris & Arrogantem?
Non est quod illum non invenisse Te Dixeris.
Quin si Ingenui Pudoris vultum, si Frontem Probatissimum,
Si Dei, Reginæ, Patriæ Studiosum
Investigaturus huc Ades,
Abi res Tuus Negotiaturus,
Nullus est.
Cuinam se scripserit Amicum, Interrogas?
Reipublicæ.
Cuinam se Probavit?
Nequaquam sibi.
Nulla est Amicitia inter Malos;
Quod Axioma cum non explicare potuit
Complevit & verissimum Fecit.
Vitiis indixit Bellum
Sed egit cum Virtutibus,
Carolo *Primo non a Regicidis*
Sed quod pejus fuit
Regicidis ipsis Regicidior
Famæ, Memoriæ, Regali Stirpi,
Ab Inimicis.
Tandem cum omnes se observaturum *suscepisset,*
Ipse se dedit omnibus observandum,
Et in Cachinnum decidens
Velut mali Odoris lucerna in Tenebras,
Expiravit & evanuit.
Et quod acerbissimum Incendiariis
Suarum fuit Partium,
Regiis *oppugnans* Titulis,
A Parliamento, *cui* Regium Nomen *daret,*
Reus adjudicatus est.

Jest. You'll be assuredly set down for a Papist in his next; you talk Latin and ought to be taken up for a Popish Priest. There are those will Swear it upon occasion, and how the Brethren will understand you, unless they get Sir *Bartholomew*'s Brother for an Interpreter, I cannot possibly imagine.

Earn. They have it among 'em, and let 'em make the best use of it. Those that Read Us, are the better sort of Men, and for them we write, not the *Dissenters.* They said as much, because *Heraclitus* did not make his Appearance on last *Christmas Day*, which happen'd to fall on *Saturday*; but as long as we have the Satisfaction of having done our Duty, let others run away with the profit they propose to themselves by perverting the Intent of that Sacred Festival; all Good Men will think us in the Right of it, and so Adieu to you.

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